away in a goods train for slaughter were got released at the Ghaziabad station; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far, by Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is aware of this news-item. We have requested the Railway Board to ban the transportation of cattle by the Railways completely as it causes cruelty to animals due to violation of rules by the transporters by faking documents in the name of milch cattle while transporting them for the purpose of slaughter in over-crowded wagons without adequate feeding, water and rest.

Guidelines for disposal of pending cases of old people

†2487. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the welfare schemes formulated by Government so far for senior citizens of the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government also propose to issue guidelines to the courts under this scheme to expedite the disposal of cases of the old people pending for the last many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons and (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayat Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for construction of old age homes/multi service centres for older persons. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing schemes namely (iii) National Old

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Age Pension Scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme and (iv) Annapurna Scheme.

(b) The schemes mentioned above are for the whole country and there are no separate scheme(s) for any particular State(s). Under the scheme (i) above, the Central Government is giving grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations for establishing and running of Old age Homes, Day Care Centers and Mobile Medical Units for older persons. Under the scheme (ii) above, the Central Government is giving a one time grant-in-aid up to Rs. 30.00 lakhs to voluntary organizations/Panchayat Raj Institutions/Self help groups for construction of Old Age Homes and Multi Service Units for older persons. Under the scheme (iii) above, the Central Government is providing Rs.75/- per month per head for destitute elderly persons of 65 years and above. Under the scheme (iv) above, the Central Government is providing 10 Kg of food grains per month free of cost to those senior citizens who though eligible have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme.

(c) On the request of this Ministry, the Chief Justices of India has already advised the Chief Justice of All High Courts in the country to ensure expeditious disposal of cases involving older persons.

Continuance of animal performance in circus

2488. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the ban, animals continue to perform in circus;

(b) why Government have not sent a single animal to the rescue Centre; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to implement the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The government has no such information that they are still performing. The following animals are prohibited to be exhibited